



March 23, 2007

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Doolittle  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
2410 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**SUBJECT: Rancho California Water District Recycled Water Expansion Feasibility Program**

Dear Representative Lewis and Representative Doolittle,

As an industry association with strong ties to the local and regional economy in southern California, the California Avocado Commission is writing on behalf of its 6,500 grower members to respectfully request your support for authorizations and appropriations for the Rancho California Water District (RCWD) regional Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) project. The project will provide vast regional and federal benefits.

When implemented, RCWD's regional IRP project will provide cost-effective and sustainable water supplies. The project will have outstanding regional and federal benefits and will relieve substantial water demand from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) regional treated water system thereby efficiently relieving demands on the Colorado River and the California Bay Delta (State Water Project). We're excited about how RCWD's project will enhance our scarce resources of water in California. We understand that you receive numerous requests from state water agencies but feel that this project merits being one of the state's top priorities due to the vast federal benefits it will provide.

Specifically, RCWD's IRP project will free-up enough treated water supply to meet the demands of up to 70,000 households. The project will create the ability beneficially to reuse at least over 16,000 acre feet (AF) of recycled water annually, which will relieve demands on the statewide systems and will increase the sustainability of Southern Riverside County's avocado, citrus and wine industries. These agricultural industries add exponentially to the regional economy and provide environmental benefits as they preserve open space. By converting the majority of the agricultural delivery system from a treated water potable system to a recycled and raw water non-potable system, the project also will enable RCWD to utilize more than 10,000 AF/year of unused regional storage.

We appreciate the support you have given RCWD to date, and it is our hope you will support appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation's portion of the feasibility study. We also hope you will support efforts by Representatives Mary Bono, Darrell Issa, and Ken Calvert to hold hearings on and ultimately to pass authorization legislation for the project. In a time of ever-decreasing federal funds, it is important to note that RCWD already has financed its own feasibility study with the support of Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) and Western Municipal Water District (WMWD). The RCWD, EMWD and WMWD portion of the feasibility study will be completed by May 2007. This progress has occurred with no federal funding.



We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to seeing this project—vital to our economy and the continued economic strength of the region—progress expeditiously through the federal process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott McIntyre".

Scott McIntyre  
Chairman

cc: Representative Mary Bono  
Representative Darrell Issa  
Representative Ken Calvert